

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 09106 231230Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 NSC-05 SS-15 AID-05 /037 W
-----102205 240033Z /70

R 231219Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7058

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, OTRA
SUBJECT: GROUP SPONSORED BY CONGRESSMAN METCALFE

1. STATE 68000 WAS TIMELY AND HELPFUL TO THE EMBASSY,
PARTICULARLY IN ALERTING US TO A POSSIBLE CHANGE IN
HOTEL RESERVATIONS.

2. THE GROUP'S LEADER, REV. E. B. BRADY, TELEPHONED
THE EMBASSY FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 17, AT APPROXIMATELY
7 P.M. HE WAS DISTRESSED THAT THE RESERVATIONS AT THE
JOLIE VILLE HAD NOT MATERIALIZED AND WAS CONCERNED THAT
THE RED CARPET DID NOT APPEAR TO BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE
ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE LADIES IN THE PARTY. THE ADMINIS-
TRATIVE COUNSELOR, WHO RECEIVED REV. BRADY'S TELEPHONE
CALL, EXPLAINED THE PERSISTENT PROBLEM OF HOTEL ACCOMMO-
DATIONS IN CAIRO AND COUNSELLED THE GROUP NOT TO RELEASE
THEIR ROOMS IN THE RED CARPET, AT LEAST UNTIL THEY HAD
BEEN ABLE TO TALK TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE TOURIST COMPANY
WHICH WAS HANDLING THEIR TOUR. (SINCE THE PARTY CON-
SISTED OF AT LEAST 32 PERSONS, IT WAS ABSOLUTELY BEYOND
THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY THAT ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATIONS
COULD BE FOUND IN ANY ONE HOTEL AND, IN FACT, PERHAPS
COULD NOT BE FOUND AT ALL.)

3. WE WERE GRATIFIED, THEREFORE, WHEN REV. BRADY AND
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 09106 231230Z

ONE OF HIS PARTY CAME TO THE EMBASSY SATURDAY MORNING
TO TALK TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR ABOUT WHEN AND
HOW THEY MIGHT BE INFORMED OF THE TIME OF THE REQUESTED
APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT SADAT. REV. BRADY INDICATED
THAT THE GROUP FOUND THE RED CARPET MORE ACCEPTABLE THAN
THEY HAD FEARED AND SEEMED SATISFIED TO CONTINUE TO USE
THOSE ACCOMMODATIONS THROUGHOUT THEIR STAY.

4. ON DEPARTURE DAY, MONDAY, MARCH 20, SEVEN OR EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE GROUP RETURNED TO THE EMBASSY ABOUT 9:30 A.M. TO INQUIRE WHETHER WE HAD ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT. WE POINTED OUT THAT WE WERE NOT INVOLVED IN ARRANGING THE APPOINTMENT BUT HAD BEEN TOLD BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (PROTOCOL) THAT, WHEN THE APPOINTMENT HAD BEEN SET, THE GROUP WOULD BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY BY PROTOCOL. (SINCE THEIR DEPARTURE PLANS CALLED FOR A MID-AFTERNOON DEPARTURE FROM CAIRO, IT APPEARED UNLIKELY THAT THE APPOINTMENT COULD BE KEPT, IF INDEED IT HAD BEEN GRANTED, WITHOUT CANCELLING THEIR ONWARD FLIGHT RESERVATIONS AND AGAIN RAISING THE POTENTIAL PROBLEM OF HOTEL RESERVATIONS.) WE URGED REV. BRADY TO CALL THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTLY AND GAVE HIM THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE ACTION OFFICER IN PROTOCOL.

5. EMBASSY WAS UNABLE TO REACH THE ACTION OFFICER IN PROTOCOL TUESDAY BUT DID SO WEDNESDAY. THE ACTION OFFICER ADVISED THAT HE HAD NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN NOTIFIED BY THE PRESIDENCY OF A SCHEDULE FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND THEREFORE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY MESSAGE TO CONVEY TO THE PARTY.

6. COMMENT: THIS IS YET AGAIN ANOTHER INSTANCE IN WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 09106 231230Z

ASSURANCES GIVEN BY THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON SOMETIMES OVERREACH THE REALM OF PRACTICALITY. WHILE THE GROUP MAY HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED IN NOT HAVING AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT SADAT, THE BALANCE OF THEIR STAY SEEMS TO HAVE GONE SATISFACTORILY ACCORDING TO COMMENTS MADE BY VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE GROUP TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR, WHO HIMSELF IS A CHICAGOAN. EILTS

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